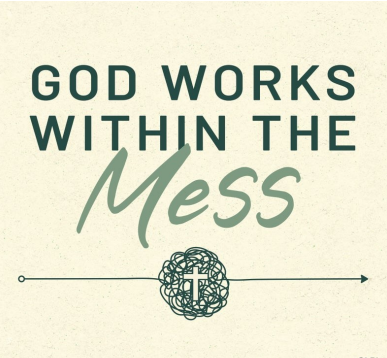




A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. “It’s supposed to be God’s Kingdom on earth,” he said, “but it’s full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can’t the Church just be better?” That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing. But Jesus’ parables in today’s Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field, “ yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God’s reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God’s quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church’s flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that His Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds. Amen. —Fr. John Muir

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JULY 18 & 19 2026
Sat. July 25 @ 4:30PM @ St. Nicholas
Reader: Marce Tebbe
Music: Sally Rehberger, Barb Zaloga, & Colleen Lozier
Euch. Min.: Karen Kalous & Brenda Tebbe
Server: Pat Kalous

Sun. July 26 @ 8:00AM @ St. Gertrude
Reader: Carole Sauls
Music: Nick Worman & Randy Eckstein
Sacristan: Rich May
Euch.Min.: Terry & Sue Dickman & Amber Kapp
Ushers: Terry Dickman & Kevin Schwarz
Servers: Katie Schwarz & Kinslei Kapp

Sun. July 26 @10:00AM @ IC
Reader: Terry Potthast
Music: Joy Winkeler
Servers: Avery Gilomen & Jentry Lobello
Euch. Min.: Rick & Ruth Zurliene & Cindy Knebel

Grantfork PSR Registration for 26-27 is now open. Please scan the code to complete the registration form by August 16th. If you have any questions, you may reach Karen Straube at 618-806-5472 or Grantfork PSR at parish.psr@gmail.com.



Mon. (July20)	8:00am	
Tues. (July21)	8:00am	(St.G)
Wed. (July22)	8:00am	(IC)
Thur. (July23)	8:00am	(St.N)
Fri. (July24)	8:00am	(IC)
Sat. (July25)	4:30pm	(St.N)
Sun. (July26)	8:00am	(St.G)
Sun. (July26)	10:00am	(IC)

† Mass Intentions †

No Mass

† All Souls

† Maxine Huelskamp —Int. of Bill & Denise Trickey

† George & Bernice Wellen —Int. of Lowell & Denise Wellen

† Roman Korte —Int. of Pauline Perrine

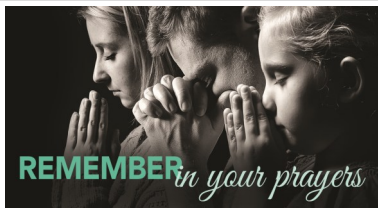
† Tami Lozier —Int. of Colleen & Jim Lozier

† Joan Dickshot — Int. of St. Gertrude Altar Society

For the People of St. Gertrude, St. Nicholas & Immaculate Conception

† Barbara Ogaz —Int. of the Wirz Family

† Stephen Moran —Int. of the Wirz Family



Members of our parish families who are recovering in the hospital & at home, for their strength and patience each day, and for all those who ask for our prayers for health or other issues. John Alberternst, Pat Beard, Ana Cantrell, Steve Crawford, Don Dapkus, Teresa Dickman, Garland Edwards, Jean Fields, Gabriel Frey, Jerry Fyke, Ed Gagen, Karen Grabowski, John Grubb, Eugene Henson, P.J. Hereford, James Hodge, Gene Jolliff, Pat Kalous, Val King, Janice Korsmeyer, Barrett Korte, Denny Korte, Randy Korte, Steve Korte, David Kuehn, Sue Lubber, Christopher Marti, Taylor Marti, Barry May, Alex McCall, Eleanor Munie, Cody Neal, Jeannie Oestringer, Marcia Rowe, Gunner Sadler, Abby Schrage, Bill Schroeder, Suzanne Steinbring, Brenda Usher, Marie Weis, Rich Weis, Ginny Werner, Dean Wernle, Melanie Wernle, Paige Wernle.

FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES:
Delmar Knebel, Harold Schwarz, Barbara Weiss, Margie Zurliene and special people in our families.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:
Adam Canfield, Tim Doll, Ensign Eli Jones, Michael Knebel, Dustin Korte, Solon McGill, Lt. Abigail Mesaros, Jerritt Mettler, Jimmy O’Boyle, Sgt. Joseph Patterson, Rickie Schuster, Joseph Schatte, Greg Spina, T.J. Waddington, Sgt. Tyler Wegman, Sgt. Zach Weiss.

If you would like to have someone added or removed from the prayer list please call the parish office.



OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

WELCOME! On July 12, at the 10:00am Mass at IC, we will celebrate Rites of Entrance Into the Catechumenate for Jacob Willis; and Welcoming the Candidates for Continuing Conversion for Mitch Campbell and Christopher Dilks. We will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming for Autumn Kalous on July 18 at the 4:30pm Mass at St. Nicholas. Please welcome Jacob, Mitch, Christopher and Autumn into our faith community and pray for them as they grow in faith with us.

Readings for the week of July 19, 2026

Sunday:
Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/
Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Monday:
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday:
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday:
Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday:
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 13:10-17

Friday:
Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/
Mt 13:18-23

Saturday:
2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28

Next Sunday:
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.” – Matthew 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all “good seeds”. We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God’s plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God’s kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow “good seeds” on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

The mustard seed was the smallest seed, but it grew to be the largest plant because it was well-tended. This is faith, looking past what is to see what can be, if only we make the necessary choice.

Sister Maria Theresia of the Most Holy Trinity, a devotee of St. Thérèse, is on track to become the second St. Louis-based saint. This Spring, the Vatican announced that Pope Leo XIV had recognized the heroic virtues of Sister Theresia, advancing her sainthood cause and bestowing on her the title of “Venerable.” If it comes to pass that miracles are attributed to her intercession and her cause proceeds to beatification and canonization, Sister Theresia could become the second woman to achieve sainthood while serving in the St. Louis region, after St. Rose Philippine Duchesne.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today’s second reading, Saint Paul bids us to take comfort in knowing that when God invites us to pray to Him, He knows our true needs, even if we do not. The Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for us even if we can’t come up with appropriate words; even when we don’t have a clue what to ask for. We are not left alone. Good stewards know that prayer is an important part of living a life in Christ. The important thing is to make space for God. Do we let God into our hearts? Do we make room for the Holy Spirit to pray within us?

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH GROUP

Bloom BOUQUET BAR

CREATE. CONNECT. BLOOM.

Come build a beautiful bouquet and grow in faith and friendship!

AUGUST 2ND

11:00am - 12:30pm PM

Bouquet Donation: \$10 PER BOUQUET or more if you'd like to donate!

Immaculate Conception Church
Pierron, IL

FAITH • FRIENDS • FLOWERS

Next St. Gertrude Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21st at 7:00PM

ST. MARY MAGDALENE, pray for us!

STN Collection	7/11/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,625.00
Sister Parish	\$10.00
Capital Improvements	\$5.00

STG Collection	7/12/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,034.00
Sister Parish	\$30.00
Maintenance Fund	\$50.00
Candles	\$21.00

Observances for the week of July 19, 2026	
Sunday:	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
Tuesday:	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. Mary Magdalene
Thursday:	St. Bridget, Religious
Friday:	St. Sharbel Makhlûf, Priest
Saturday:	St. James, Apostle
Next Sunday:	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pray for Holy Marriages

Joy Winkeler and Samuel Okema

Please join us in prayer for the upcoming marriage of Joy and Samuel.

Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of Your providence has brought these two together.

As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for Your grace, grant that, strengthened by Your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. Amen.

They will be married at St. Boniface Church, Edwardsville on August 1, 2026

Please keep them and all those discerning Holy Marriage in your prayers.

Question and Answer Series with Fr. Cal

St. Gertrude church is beginning a series after mass that Fr. Cal will explain in 2-3 minutes concerning questions you may have relating to Catholic mass, traditions or whatever else concerning our catholic faith.

There will be a box in the vestibule "QUESTIONS FOR FR. CAL". Please put your questions in the box for him. Thank you.

Join us to celebrate Brenda Tebbe’s 70th birthday

Sunday, August 2nd
St Nicholas Catholic Church
401 East State Street
Pocahontas, IL.



This will be an Open House from 1-5 PM. There will be light refreshments. No gifts expected.

IC Collection	7/12/26
Envelopes/Loose	\$1,812.00
Sister Parish	\$50.00
Building Fund	\$53.00
Candles	\$79.00



St. Elizabeth's Church Picnic

Marine, Illinois

BUFFET STYLE CHICKEN DINNER

With Homemade Dressing & Desserts

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Dinner Service Starts at 11:00 am

Dinner Tickets Sold Until 5:00 pm

Adults & Children (ages 6 – 10) sizes

Children 5 and under: Free

Adult CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE:

1/2 chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, slaw, applesauce and cake or pie

Refreshments ~ Raffle

Cash BINGO 12:30-7:30 pm ~ Attendance Prizes

BL50065

Come Rain or Shine ~ Everyone Cordially Invited!

Mass will be at 4:00 p.m. on Sat., July 25th

There will not be a 9:30 Mass Sunday morning!

Like to Dance?

**Dave Hylla
& The Good Times Band**

Sunday, July 19th

2 PM -5 PM

Tickets \$10

At The Door of
The Highland KC Hall

Cash Bar, Kitchen Open – Limited Menu

Knights of Columbus, Council 1580
12454 IL Route 143, Highland, IL 62249
618-654-9049



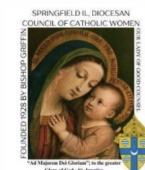
**July Pantry
Needs:**

**Toilet Paper &
Brownie Mix**

HACSM can always
use monetary
donations to allow
them to purchase
additional items as
needed. All food
donations will still
be accepted no
matter the above
assignment each
month. We
appreciate your
support!
Thank You!



There is a table set up in the hall-
way at IC Church. Please bring fruit
& veggies from your gardens that
you would like to share with the
church community.



Save the Date!

SDCCW 97th Annual Convention
Springfield IL, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

THURSDAY, September 3, 2026, Quincy, IL
Hosted by the Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women

Guest Speaker: Teresa Tomeo

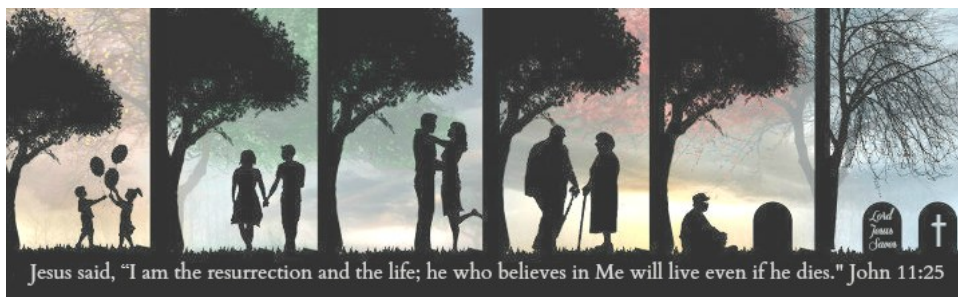


**Event Theme: Handmaids of the Lord:
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**

Teresa Tomeo is an author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and motivational speaker with more than 40 years of experience in TV, radio, and newspaper, 20 of which were as a secular reporter/anchor in the Detroit market. Teresa appears frequently on the EWTN Global Catholic Television Network, including hosting the *EWTN Learn Series*, "Saints in Italy."

Morning Rosary and Mass at St Anthony of Padua Church, Quincy IL
Followed by Registration and Program at The Ambiance Banquet Hall, Quincy, IL

Registration information will be sent out later.
Follow Quincy Deanery Council of Catholic Women on Facebook



What really happens at Mass Movie— The Real Presence: The Mass is a 28 minute film that reveals the unseen spiritual world of the Catholic Mass. At the heart of the film is the belief that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist — not symbolically, but in reality. With alarming statistics showing that many Catholics no longer believe in this foundational truth, the film seeks to reawaken faith & offer compelling insights into what the Church teaches about the Real Presence. **Watch for free: therealpresence.com**

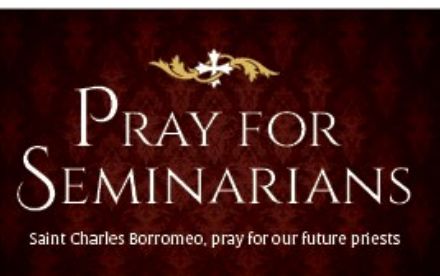


Pray For Our Seminarians

Joshua Freund

Discipleship I

St. Meinrad Seminary



Saint Charles Borromeo, pray for our future priests

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JULY 18 & 19, 2026



Saint Nicholas - Pocahontas



Immaculate Conception—Pierron



Saint Gertrude—Grantfork



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The righteous will shine like the sun in the
kingdom of their Father." - Mt 13:43a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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+BISHOP
THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS



REV. CALLISTUS OSIAGA
PASTOR

SONYA CURRY
SECRETARY

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Office: 618-669-2391
Rectory: 618-654-2789

Office Address:
401 E State Street,
Pocahontas
Office Hours:
Mon.—Thurs. 9am to 4pm
Fridays 9am to 1pm

Mass Times
Immaculate Conception
Wed. & Fri. —8:00am
Sunday —10:00am

Saint Nicholas
Thursday — 8:00am
Saturday — 4:30pm

Saint Gertrude
Tuesday — 8:00am
Sunday — 8:00am

VOCATION MINISTRY PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:
July 19, 2026

For the Church, that priests may sow seeds of faith
throughout God's kingdom.

For those discerning their vocation, that they may
find peace in God's timing and courage to say yes
to His plan.

For our parish, that we may support priests with
prayer and encouragement so their ministry may
flourish and bear lasting fruit.

"The simple fact is this: Jesus was not executed for
saying, "love one another" or "try to be nice." He
was executed for claiming to be the God of the
universe—the I AM. He doesn't ask us merely to
accept his teachings; he calls us to accept him."

CURTIS MARTIN
Made for More

DynamicCatholic.com